

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 19, 2018

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

As you write your appropriations bill for fiscal year 2019, we ask that you robustly fund the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) at the U.S. Department of Labor.

HVRP focuses on helping veterans experiencing homelessness to find, and sustain, meaningful employment and housing. Veterans receive skills training, career counseling, and resume writing assistance from local organizations funded through HVRP. Veterans are also connected to stable housing options and other support services to help them reintegrate into the labor force and community at large.

In Medford, Oregon, 68 of the 95 homeless and at-risk veterans enrolled in HVRP during the last program year found jobs, with an average starting hourly wage of \$12.14. In addition, the program assisted all 95 veterans by connecting them to the closest U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility for care and benefits and co-enrolling the veterans in the local American Job Center. HVRP programs like the one in southern Oregon work closely with area employers, including holding quarterly training workshops on the benefits of hiring veterans and involving area businesses in mock job interviews and job shadowing opportunities for HVRP veterans seeking employment. For example, the Medford program established a successful relationship with Rogue Community College and A & M Transport (a local transportation company) to have A & M Transport hire HVRP veterans who graduated from the college's commercial driver's license (CDL) training program, which was paid for through HVRP. This vocational training not only fills a need in the local economy, but provides good-paying jobs for veterans in the region.

A similar HVRP-business partnership was successfully established in New York through a program that regularly works with area security companies to help fill in-demand security guard positions. Veterans interested in security industry careers are provided with the training and licensing required to meet New York State standards for employment. For example, Allied Universal Security Services, a major security firm and program partner, has hired HVRP veterans for security positions at an hourly wage of \$17.00.

HVRP annually provides employment and other support to about 16,000 at-risk veterans from across the country each year. As a result of past HVRP investments and other public-private

initiatives, our country has made tremendous progress in reducing the number of homeless veterans by more than 34,000, or 41 percent, since 2010. However, local reintegration supports are still needed in order to meet the challenges faced by homeless veterans with mental illness and other barriers, as well as to tailor services to female veterans, the fastest growing segment of the homeless population. Robust funding for HVRP will provide these services in more communities and increase the number of veterans served.

We appreciate the Committee's efforts to support the HVRP program. The \$47.5 million funding level included in the FY18 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill that the Committee passed represented a significant increase over previous years, and signals the Committee's commitment serving this population. We fully recognize the limited resources available among the many priorities within the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill. However, we urge you to carefully consider the needs of America's veterans by strongly funding the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program at the Department of Labor.

We thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,



Greg Warden  
Member of Congress



Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress



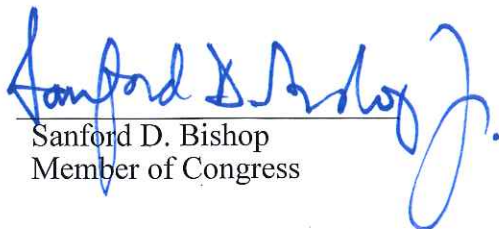
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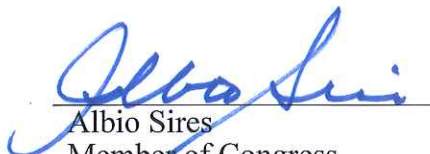
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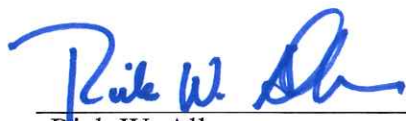
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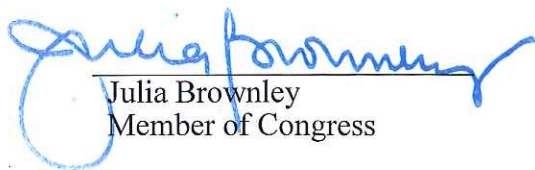
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Al Green  
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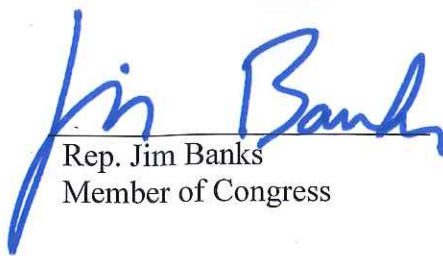
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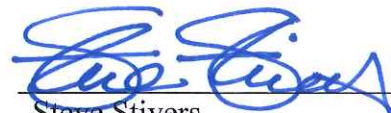
  
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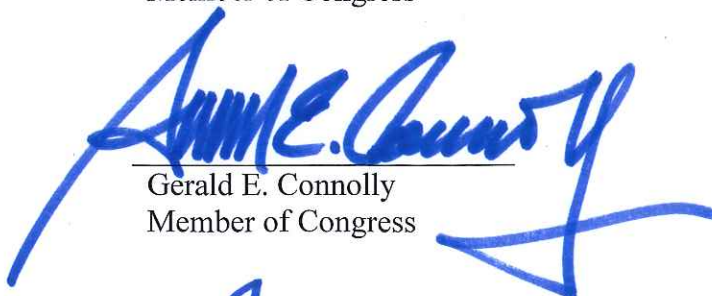
  
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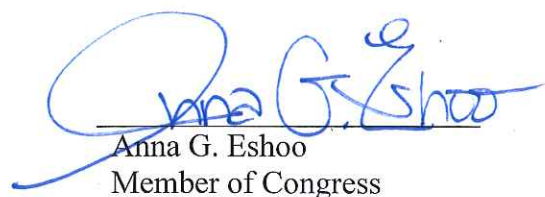
  
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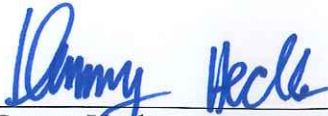
  
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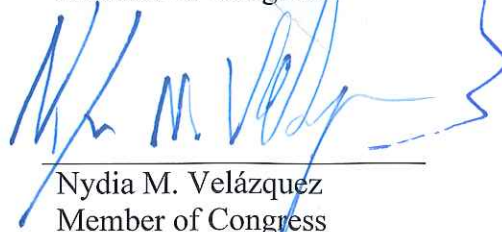
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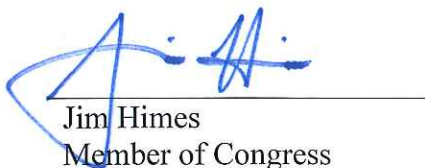
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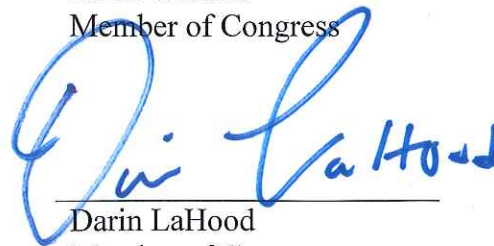
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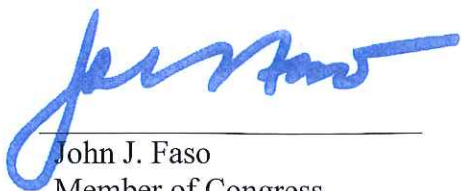


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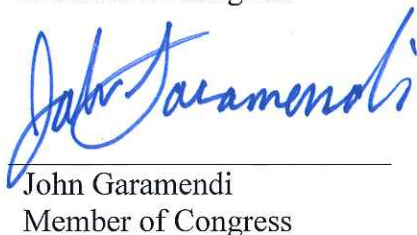
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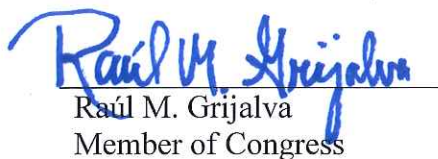
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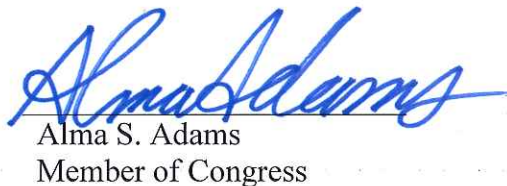
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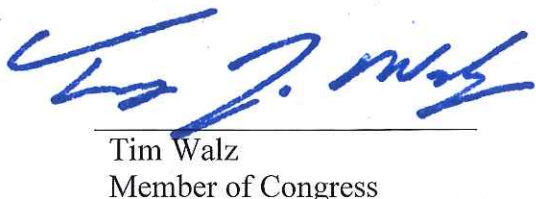
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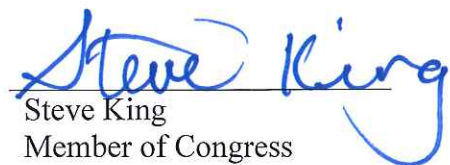
Dwight Evans  
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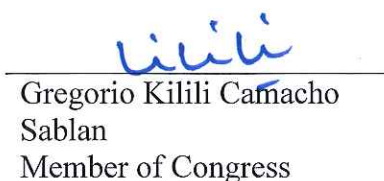
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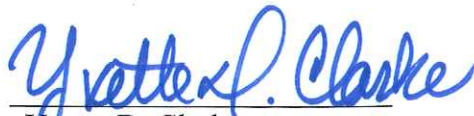
Dina Titus  
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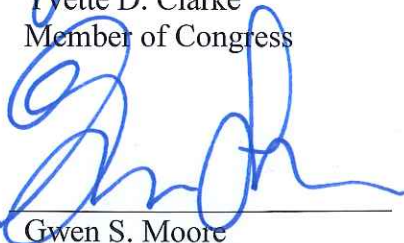
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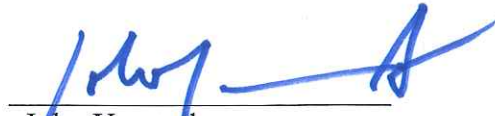
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